

AMENDMENT

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) A method of transdifferentiating a monocytic cell into an endothelial cell, comprising:
 - providing a monocytic cell; and
 - artificially increasing the expression of pleiotrophin (PTN) in the monocytic cell by transducing the monocytic cell *in vitro* with a retrovirus expressing PTN such that the monocytic cell transdifferentiates into an endothelial cell.

Claim 2 (Cancelled).

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the retrovirus is a bicistronic retrovirus.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the monocytic cell is a RAW cell or a THP-1 cell.

5-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the monocytic cell transdifferentiates into an endothelial cell *in vitro*.
12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the monocytic cell transdifferentiates into an endothelial cell *in vivo*.

13-19. (Cancelled.)